

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 17 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention that, on 8 December 2000, at 2300 hours, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, positioned in the northern Persian Gulf, intercepted and seized, in implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the sanctions regime against Iraq, an oil tanker called *Al-Zahra*, which was carrying 10 sailors along with a cargo of 2,500 metric tons of Iraqi unauthorized mazut.

In this connection, on 10 December 2000, at 0030 hours, Iraqi armed forces, violating Iranian internal waters, approached the impounded tanker and engaged Iranian Navy personnel. In the course of the conflict, which followed, one Iraqi was killed and one Iranian conscript was wounded.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran underlines that the recurrence of such intrusions, which regrettably continue to occur along the common Iran-Iraq borders, will cause irreparable damage to the bilateral relations and consequently the security and stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi Nejad-Hosseini
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

